Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An element for use in an annular metal belt, the annular metal belt transmitting torque between two pulleys each having a V-shaped groove, the element comprising a flank capable of making frictional contact with the V-shaped groove for transmission of torque;

wherein the flank comprises a plurality of threads disposed substantially parallel to one another and having a height less than a width or length ~~slight height relative to a dimension~~ of the flank, the top section of each thread being substantially planar;

wherein the flank comprises a surface profile;

wherein, at a depth Y of 1.2 μm, a total sectional area of the plurality of threads reaches at least 10% of the occupied area of the flank; and, at a depth Y of 4.8 μm, a total sectional area of the plurality of threads reaches at least 40% of the occupied area of the flank; wherein the depth Y is measured from a top point of a highest thread and wherein a sectional area of the plurality of threads is perpendicular to a direction of depth; and

wherein a bearing ratio curve obtained from the surface profile of the flank is positioned in a range defined by a function of $Y(\mu m) = 3.3333X^3 - 2.3333X^2 + 0.6667X - 0.0267$ and a function of $Y(\mu m) = -8.3333X^3 + 20.833X^2 + 3.3333X + 0.6667$, where X is given by (total sectional area of the plurality of threads at a depth Y(μm)) / (occupied area of the flank).

2. - 3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The element for use in an annular metal belt as defined in Claim 1, wherein ~~the flank comprises a surface profile characterized in that:~~ a total sectional area of the plurality of threads at a depth Y from a top point of a highest thread increases as the depth Y increases.

5. (Currently Amended) The element for use in an annular metal belt as defined in Claim 1, wherein a [[the]] height of the plurality of threads of the flank is between 30 – 40 micrometers.

6. (Original) The element for use in an annular metal belt as defined in Claim 1, wherein a pitch of the threads is approximately 0.2 millimeters.

7. (Original) The element for use in an annular metal belt as defined in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of threads of the flank extend substantially in a direction of movement of the element.

8. (Original) The element for use in an annular metal belt as defined in Claim 1, wherein a length of each thread is substantially equal to a width of the flank at a location where each thread is disposed.

9. (Canceled).

10. (New) A metal belt for transmitting torque between two pulleys each having a V-shaped groove, comprising:

a plurality of connected elements, wherein the plurality of connected elements comprises a plurality of first elements and a plurality of second elements, wherein the number of first elements is greater than or equal to 30% of the overall number of the plurality of connected elements;

wherein each first element comprises a flank capable of making frictional contact with the V-shaped groove for transmission of torque;

wherein the flank comprises a plurality of threads disposed substantially parallel to one another and having a height less than a width or length of the flank, the top section of each thread being substantially planar;

wherein the flank comprises a surface profile;

wherein, at a depth Y of 1.2 μm, a total sectional area of the plurality of threads reaches at least 10% of the occupied area of the flank; and, at a depth Y of 4.8 μm, a total sectional area of the plurality of threads reaches at least 40% of the occupied area of the flank; wherein the depth Y is measured from a top point of a highest thread and wherein a sectional area of the plurality of threads is perpendicular to a direction of depth; and

wherein a bearing ratio curve obtained from the surface profile of the flank is positioned in a range defined by a function of $Y(\mu m) = 3.3333X^3 - 2.3333X^2 + 0.6667X - 0.0267$ and a function of $Y(\mu m) = -8.3333X^3 + 20.833X^2 + 3.3333X + 0.6667$, where X is

given by (total sectional area of the plurality of threads at a depth Y(μm)) / (occupied area of the flank).

11. (New) An element for use in an annular metal belt, the annular metal belt transmitting torque between two pulleys each having a V-shaped groove, the element comprising a flank capable of making frictional contact with the V-shaped groove for transmission of torque;

wherein the flank comprises a plurality of threads disposed substantially parallel to one another and having a height less than a width or length of the flank, the top section of each thread being substantially planar;

wherein the flank comprises a surface profile; and

wherein a bearing ratio curve obtained from the surface profile of the flank is positioned in a range defined by a function of $Y(\mu m) = 3.3333X^3 - 2.3333X^2 + 0.6667X - 0.0267$ and a function of $Y(\mu m) = -8.3333X^3 + 20.833X^2 + 3.3333X + 0.6667$, where X is given by (total sectional area of the plurality of threads at a depth Y(μm)) / (occupied area of the flank).